

STORY: GENESIS: RACHEL & LEAH (Genesis 29-30)

REVIEW

Who remembers Abraham? What was his son's name? *Isaac*

How many children did Isaac have? *2 twin boys*

What were their names? *Esau and Jacob*

What did Jacob do? *Lied to his father and stole his brother's birthright and blessing*

What happened to Jacob? *He had to run away from his brother who wanted to kill him.*

VIDEO LESSON: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITdzGbz-QTo&index=14&list=PLBwdejXj7tUmw4WC4nUjp7AFeM9uXYMaK>

So Jacob travelled east, to the land where his grandfather Abraham was born.

He was also hoping to choose a wife from his grandfather's family.

Early on a warm afternoon, he came to a well in the fields outside the town of Haran.

At that moment, a beautiful girl, Rachel, arrived with her father's sheep.

When Jacob's eyes met Rachel's, he fell in love with her instantly and helped her to get water for her sheep. He found out that Rachel was his uncle Laban's daughter.

"I am your relative. Your aunt Rebekah is my mother," he told the girl.

Rachel ran home to tell her father all that had happened. When her father heard the news, he ran to meet Jacob. He hugged and kissed this nephew he hadn't known until now, and brought him to his home.

And so Jacob stayed with his uncle's family for a whole month and worked for him.

Now, Laban had two daughters. Rachel and Leah.

As we know, Rachel was very beautiful. She was the kind of girl everyone loved and liked to have around.

Leah was the older sister. She wasn't as beautiful as Rachel, and some even thought she was quite ugly. Poor Leah ... no one hardly noticed her.

One day, Laban said to Jacob, "You've been working hard for me ... I'd like to pay you. What do you want?"

Immediately, Jacob said, "I will work for you for seven years if you will let me marry your daughter Rachel."



Laban said, "I would rather give her to you than to anyone else."

And so Jacob worked for his uncle for seven years.

Finally, the day came that Jacob had worked for all those years. At last, the wedding day arrived.

There was a great wedding feast. And that night, under a sky of shining stars, Jacob's bride came to Jacob's tent. She was wrapped from head to foot in layers of veils and flowing robes.

Jacob took his wife by the hand and led her inside. They slept that night as man and wife.

But, when the light of morning came, Jacob awoke to a big surprise.

It wasn't Rachel he had married at all! It was her sister Leah he was lying beside!

Jacob jumped from his bed and ran straight to the tent of his Uncle Laban. "You lied to me! You cheated me! You promised me Rachel, but you gave me Leah instead!"

Well - look who's talking! The cheater got cheated. (So it doesn't pay to cheat!)

Laban said to him, "It isn't our custom to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older. Work for me another seven years, and I will give you Rachel as well."

And so Jacob agreed, and Jacob and Rachel were married at last.

(In those days, it was common to marry relatives and have many wives. Today, God intends for 1 man to have 1 wife only.)

But how do you think Leah felt? First she was the sister nobody liked. Now she was the wife that no one loved.

"No one loves me," Leah said. "I'm too ugly."

Do you ever feel that way?

But God didn't think she was ugly. God looked at her and saw a princess.

And when he saw that Leah was not loved and that no one wanted her, God chose her. God loved her and gave her a special job. One day, God was going to rescue the world — through Leah!

When Leah realised how much God loved her, in her heart, it didn't matter anymore that her husband loved her sister more or that her sister was prettier.

Someone had chosen her. Someone did love her — with a never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love.

When Leah had her fourth baby boy, she called him Judah, which means, "This time I will praise the Lord!" And that's what she did.

And many, many years later, Judah's descendent, Leah's great, great, great, great great, great grandson, was born into this world.

And His name was Jesus!

Source: <http://www.essex1.com/pages/paul/bible24.html>; *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

LESSON

God blessed the world through Leah

God doesn't choose people the way the world chooses. The world chooses the biggest, best and strongest. God chooses the weakest and lovely so that His strength and greatness can be shown through them.

God chooses the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, the weak things to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. (1 Corinthians 1:27-28)

Leah was unwanted and unloved by her father (who was eager to get rid of her) and her husband (who made his preference for Rachel obvious to all).

Yet God chose her and blessed all of mankind through Leah's 4th son Judah. Jesus Christ was descended from the line of Judah.

Even if no one else loves us ... God loves us!

In fact, God loved us sooooo much, that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for us and save us from our sin. (John 3:16)

Jesus loved God's people, whether they are beautiful or ugly, good or bad. They didn't need to be beautiful for Him to love them. He would love them with all His heart. And they would be beautiful because He loved them.

If you ever looked in the mirror and said, "No one loves me" ... always remember that Jesus loves you most of all!

Do you know anyone who needs to know how much Jesus loves them? Let's share Jesus' love to everyone!

Take-Home Lesson:

God Loves Me. God Chose Me. Even when I was unlovely!

God's love makes me lovely!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

Mirror Craft:

With the take-home lesson on the frame.
(You can use aluminum foil for the mirror)



Crossword Puzzle:

http://www.sermons4kids.com/jacob_rachel_crossword.htm

Have the kids write the take-home lesson under the puzzle.

Memory Verse Challenge:

1 Cor 1:27 *But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.*

Ideas for challenge here: <http://www.kidssundayschool.com/1243/teaching-aids/assorted-ideas-for-memorizing-verses.php>